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A chromosome number for *Ricciocarpos natans*

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Introduction

In her flora of the British liverworts Paton (1999) does not give a chromosome number for *Ricciocarpos natans* although Smith (1990) does quote a figure of $n = 9$ but without a source. The chance encounter with a large quantity of the species at Brown Moss, Shropshire, in the summer of 2006 gave an ideal opportunity to check the chromosome count.

Methods

In general the methods described by Newton (1989) were used. However, I find that I get much more consistent results if I stain fixed material for a substantial period prior to preparing the squash. I therefore modified her basic technique as follows:

- Place the fixed shoots in a few drops of acetorcein in a staining block, cover, and leave for 5 – 6 hours.

- Taking one shoot at a time, remove from the stain, rinse in 45% acetic acid and dissect out the growing tip in a drop of 45% acetic acid under the dissecting microscope. Note that the meristematic tissue will be less than 1mm across.
- Now proceed as described by Newton but substituting a drop of 45% acetic acid for the drop of stain described in her steps 4 to 6.

Results

Good clear mitotic figures were obtained giving a count of $n = 9$.

References

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